In the late 1970s twelve-year-old Dara joins a refugee camp in war-torn Cambodia and becomes separated from her family.

I revisited this book after going to a book talk by Mingfong Ho. In her talk, she recounted how she was inspired to write the book. When the Khmer Rouge was driven from power in 1979, she went back to help refugees fleeing to Thailand. While the story of Cambodia is now one of a country developing and limping into peace, their past isn't one we should forget. In order for many children to appreciate this book, I feel that an introduction into the Cambodian genocide might be necessary as well as covering more recent civil strife which has resulted in refugees fleeing their country. There are more refugees today than in any other time in history. The Clay Marble tells an important story of inspiration and hope.